Implementation of Central schemes

4145. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the Central schemes implemented by her Ministry for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been shifted to the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) how Government would ensure that the funds allocated under these schemes for development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not diverted for other work by the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBALAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Powers to National Commission for Scheduled Castes

4146. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission for Scheduled Castes has no powers to punish the guilty in respect of cases heard by them;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to vest the commission with suitable powers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBALAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) has been set up under Article 338 of the Constitution with the specific duties and powers as indicated under clause (5) and (8) respectively. In connection with investigation of any matter or while inquiring into any complaint as given in clause (8), the Commission have all the powers of civil court trying a suit. The Commission is, thus, vested with adequate and sufficient powers to perform its functions.

Schemes for economic development of SCs/STs

4147. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the opinion that by only reserving certain percentage of jobs in Government and Semi-Government organizations it

would not be adequate to uplift the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the details of concrete plans to improve the economic condition of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes especially the poorest of the poor in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBALAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The strategies of Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Tribal Sub Plan for Scheduled Tribes (STs) have been evolved with the objective of ensuring socio economic development of these communities through programmes of land reforms, agriculture, animal husbandry, village and small industries, small business etc. Special Central Assistance (SCA) is also provided to States and UTs implementing Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan which is meant for giving added thrust to the economic development programme of these groups. Besides these, three National Finance and Development Corporations for Scheduled Castes (NSFDC), Scheduled Tribes (NSTFDC) and for Safai Karamcharis (NSKFDC) have been set up for financing income generating activities. The Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Assistance to Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) and Scheduled Tribes Development Corporations (TDCs) provide share capital contribution of 49% for the economic development of SCs and STs. The main functions of these Corporations include identification of eligible SC and ST families and motivating them to take up projects for economic development.

Commission for economically backward classes

4148. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have approved contribution of the Commission for the economically backward classes (EBCs); and

(b) if so, the terms of reference and the time-frarfie fixed for the Commission to make its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBALAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. The Commission will consists of Chairperson, one Member and **a** Member-Secretary.

The terms of reference of the Commission are as below:—

(i) to elicit the views of the State Governments/UTs and other Commissions on the subject;